

27. A method for processing data packets, comprising:  
storing a plurality of policies in memory;  
updating the policies in the memory for implementing policy changes in a data processing unit;  
receiving incoming packets in the data processing unit;  
looking up at least one corresponding policy in the memory utilizing the data processing unit;  
and  
processing the incoming packets according to the at least one corresponding policy in the memory utilizing the data processing unit.

28. A system for processing data packets, comprising:  
memory for storing a plurality of policies; and  
logic for updating the policies in the memory for implementing policy changes in a data processing unit;  
wherein the data processing unit is adapted for receiving incoming packets, looking up at least one corresponding policy in the memory, and processing the incoming packets according to the at least one corresponding policy in the memory.

29. A system for processing data packets, comprising:  
means for storing a plurality of policies;  
means for updating the policies for implementing policy changes;  
means for receiving incoming packets;  
means for looking up at least one corresponding policy; and  
means for processing the incoming packets according to the at least one corresponding policy using a plurality of threads.